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EU statement on the OSCE Minsk Group

Recalling its recent statement at the UN General Assembly, the EU believes that the OSCE Minsk Group should retain the lead in settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The EU fully supports the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group towards a peaceful, just and lasting settlement. The EU reiterates its support for all the principles, without exception, established within the Minsk Group and values the views of the Group's co-chairs.

The settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh issue is an important element of the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy and features prominently in the related Action Plans. In this context we remain ready to support all steps which contribute to a peaceful resolution of this conflict.

The EU calls on the parties concerned to avoid any actions which could lead to heightened tensions and which could undermine the ongoing mediation efforts.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, as well as the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

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